

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15178

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: MORE ON SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR

REF: CAIRO 15063

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR ASKS FOR NAMES OF POST-1956 COMMUNISTS. LAW WILL NOT APPLY TO THOSE ALREADY CLEARED BY COURT. HAYKAL INTERROGATION CONTINUES, REPORTEDLY Milder THAN ANTICIPATED. HAYKAL AND AHMED CLAIM TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO CONFRONTATION. GOVERNMENT, AGAIN, APPEARS TO HAVE ACTED IN HASTE AND THERE SOME UNCERTAINTY WHERE ALL THIS GOING. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMUNISTS. PRESS JUNE 15 REPORTS SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR ANWAR HABIB HAS ASKED MINJUST FOR NAMES OF ALL THOSE ACCUSED OF BEING COMMUNISTS SINCE 1956. ACCUSED WILL BE EXAMINED TO DETERMINE STATUS UNDER RESTRICTIONS OF NEW LAW. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY ABSENCE ANY PROMINENT LEFTISTS FROM LIST TRANSMITTED TO PARLIAMENT.)

2. DOUBLE JEOPARDY. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SPEAKER
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OTEIFI JUNE 14 ANNOUNCED NEW LAW WILL NOT APPLY TO ANYONE PREVIOUSLY TRIED AND ACQUITTED; NOR WILL IT BE USED TO PUNISH ANY DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN "REHABILITATED." HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THOSE CONVICTED--WHOSE SUBSEQUENT BEHAVIOR HAS DEMONSTRATED THEY NOT REHABILITATED--MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEW LAW (SIC). (COMMENT: NINETEEN LISTED UNDER "CENTERS OF POWER" BY

SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR APPARENTLY WERE TRIED AND ACQUITTED PREVIOUSLY.)

3. HAYKAL. JUNE 15 PRESS REPORTS CONTINUATION OF HAYKAL'S INTERROGATION, WITH SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR CONCENTRATING ON ARTICLES PRINTED ABROAD. (FRENCH EMBOFF WHO SPOKE TO HAYKAL AND SID AHMED RECENTLY, TELLS US NEITHER PARTICULARLY WORRIED OVER CHARGES. HAYKAL, HE SAID, IS EAGER TO CONFRONT REGIME IN PUBLIC FORUM. ACCORDING SAME SOURCE, SID AHMED FOUND HIS INTERROGATION MILD. HE HAD PREPARED DETAILED DEFENSE BUT QUESTIONING PROVED PRO FORMA. SID AHMED CLAIMED BE UNABLE DETECT WHAT SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR'S GOAL MIGHT BE; DESCRIBED INTERROGATION AS LACKING FOCUS. BOTH HAYKAL AND SID AHMED, REPORTEDLY, HAVE NO QUALMS OVER REVEALING SOURCES OF INCOME. FRENCH EMBOFF SAID THEY MAINTAINED THEY CAN DO THIS WITH GREATER EASE THAN MOST OF SADAT'S ASSOCIATES.)

4. COMMENT: SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR'S LIST OF 136 (REFTEL) APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP WITH SAME HASTE AS IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION:
-- GOVERNMENT FELT COMPELLED WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY THREE OF POLITICIANS LISTED FOR BANNING.

-- PROSECUTOR DISCOVERED AFTER EVENT THAT 19 OF "CENTERS OF POWER" ALREADY BEEN EXONERATED.
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-- NO LEADING LEFTISTS INCLUDED AND PROSECUTOR FORCED GO BACK TO MINJUSTICE TO ASCERTAIN WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COMMUNISM DURING PAST 22 YEARS. EILTS

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